

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 60-84 were pending. Claims 73-84 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter contained within. New claim 85 is hereby presented. Claims 60-72 and 85 are now pending. Each claim defines an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited art. Favorable consideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Disclosure Supporting the Instant Amendment:

The specification is hereby amended to specify the patent number of the parent case. Claim 60 is amended to specify that the region(s) of dielectric material comprising nitrogen are formed by implantation. Support for the amendment of Claim 60 was present in allowable Claim 61.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 61-72 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim (Claim 60) and any intervening claims (none). Claim 60 is hereby amended to incorporate allowable material of Claim 61. Therefore, Claim 60 and each claim dependent therefrom is allowable.

Rejection As Statutory Double Patenting Under 35 U.S.C. § 101:

Claim 60 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,703,283. Claim 60 is hereby amended such that it no longer is coextensive with the cited claim.

Conclusion:

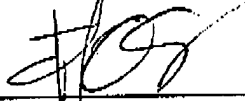
In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Respectfully submitted,



Date:

John A. Evans, Reg. No 44,100
Connolly, Bove, Lodge & Hutz LLP
1990 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-3425
Telephone: 202-331-7111
Fax No. 202-293-6229
Attorney for Applicants